

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (New) An apparatus for driving a separating element that can be moved linearly and/or on curves and that, if required, can be rotated and parked, and that is attached to at least two drive assemblies, which comprise supporting rollers and which are guided in a guide rail comprising a center piece and two side pieces, on which running surfaces are provided for the supporting rollers, wherein the first drive assembly is provided with a drive shaft that is aligned at right angles to its running direction and that is coupled to an electric motor, and by means of which a drive wheel can be rotated, which engages in a toothed element that is arranged along an inner wall of the guide rail, characterized in that the electric motor is mounted on the first drive assembly in such a way, that it is guided above the running surfaces in an accordingly dimensioned space within the guide rail with the axis of the motor shaft being aligned between the supporting rollers at right angles to the plane that is defined by the running surfaces and the motor shaft being firmly coupled via a transmission to the drive shaft that is aligned in parallel to the axis and that the separating element is connected to the driving apparatus by means of an attachment element, that is held by the body of the first drive assembly.

18. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the electric motor is arranged in a motor housing in which the transmission is also integrated.

19. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the shaft of the transmission and the drive shaft are integrally connected to one another.

20. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the attachment element is rotatably connected to the body of the first drive assembly.

21. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the motor shaft or the shaft of the is mounted by means of the body of the first drive assembly at one end or at both ends of the electric motor, and is thus held aligned vertically.

22. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the body of the first drive assembly has two parts which surround the electric motor, or in that the first drive assembly has an integral body which is suitable for accommodating and for holding the electric motor.

23. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the first drive assembly is provided with running rollers and/or guide rollers at one end or at both ends.

24. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that a busbar which extends in the longitudinal direction of the guide rail is arranged within the guide rail in order to supply power to the electric motor, and is tapped by current collectors which are arranged on the first or second drive assembly.

25. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 24, characterized in that the

busbar is arranged at the top on the center piece of the guide rail, and is tapped by the current collectors which are arranged on the upper face of the first or second drive assembly.

26. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that a control unit which is connected to the current collectors and to the electric motor is arranged on the first or second drive assembly.

27. (New) The drive apparatus as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that the control unit, which is preferably in the form of a flexible circuit, is inserted within the single-shell or multiple-shell housing of the electric motor, of the drive assembly or in an extension of the body or of the housing of the drive assembly, which extension does not impede parked drive assemblies being moved with respect to one another.

28. (New) A drive assembly having a drive apparatus as claimed in claim 17.

29. (New) A separating element connected to a drive assembly as claimed in claim 28.